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ABSTRACT

This book is intended to facilitate the development of reflective problem solving in preservice and novice special educators through the presentation of cases illustrating issues commonly experienced in student teaching and beginning employment experiences in special education settings. Each of the eight chapters begins with a brief introduction and multiple cases, followed by a series of reflective questions which explore case specifics as well as broad issues applicable across settings. The first chapter presents two longer cases relevant to new student teachers. The next five chapters are organized by theme. Chapter 2 deals with issues of communication and collaboration. Chapter 3 focuses on the impact of cultural/linguistic diversity. Chapter 4 presents cases about discipline, motivation, and classroom management. Chapter 5 examines dilemmas related to curriculum, instruction, and assessment. Chapter 6 offers cases representing issues in special education law and procedures. Chapter 7 is a series of cases told by a first-year teacher encountering the surprises and challenges of the new job. Chapter 8 focuses on the use of case writing to help novice teachers reflect on and systematically analyze their own experiences. An appendix provides a cross-reference for issues in each case with the Council for Exceptional Children's Knowledge and Skills Standards for Beginning Special Education Teachers. (DB)

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